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Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child
Seventy-seventh session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2253rd meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 15 January 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Winter

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Chair** declared open the seventy-seventh session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Statement by the representative of the Secretary-General

2. **Ms. Gilmore** (United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that, although children were disproportionately harmed by inequality, injustice, deprivation and conflict, they were disregarded as agents of change and excluded from the decision-making processes which could bring about positive change. It was thus commendable that the Committee's 2018 Day of General Discussion would be dedicated to protecting and empowering children as human rights defenders, one of the most strategic and pressing of goals in a precarious world.

3. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 15,000 children under the age of 5 years died every day of mostly preventable causes and treatable diseases. Based on current trends, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) expected that in 2030 the primary school completion rate in low-income countries would stand at 70 per cent, a goal that should have been achieved by 2015. Addressing age-based inequality and injustice was an urgent matter, and the Committee's activities, including its upcoming biennial meeting with UNICEF regional representatives, were crucial to that undertaking.

4. In 2017, the Committee had reviewed 36 State party reports. The current backlog of reports stood at an impressively low 30. In 2017, the Committee had also adopted three general comments, two of which had been issued jointly with the Committee on Migrant Workers. In addition, in early 2018, the Committee had successfully conducted its first inquiry procedure under the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.

5. Following its deliberations on the budget concerning human rights and humanitarian affairs, the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly had approved 5 temporary posts over two years, instead of the 11 permanent posts which had been proposed. The implications of that outcome were being carefully studied in order to determine how best to adjust priorities and workloads accordingly.

6. To date, less than 10 per cent of the $4.7 million necessary for the global study on children deprived of liberty had been secured, through voluntary contributions from Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Qatar, Malta and Liechtenstein. The scope of the study would thus be restricted to two thematic aspects of deprivation until additional funding was provided. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was monitoring the situation and supporting the independent expert in charge of the study.

7. In 2018, when the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would be celebrated, it was essential that efforts should be redoubled to ensure that the indivisible and inalienable rights enshrined in the Declaration were freely enjoyed by the children of the world.

Submission of reports by States parties

8. **Ms. Franchetti** (Secretary of the Committee) said that 11 reports had been received since the Committee's previous session, bringing the number of reports pending consideration to 43. Côte d'Ivoire, Cabo Verde, Botswana, Malta, Singapore, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica and the Republic of Korea had submitted reports on the implementation of the Convention. The initial reports of Tonga, South Sudan and the State of Palestine were overdue. Panama had submitted its initial report under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and Sri Lanka had submitted its initial report under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

9. The total number of ratifications of the Convention remained at 196. The Central African Republic had ratified the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in

armed conflict since the previous session, bringing the total number of ratifications to 167. The State of Palestine had ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, bringing the total number of ratifications to 174. Three States, namely Brazil, Cyprus and Turkey, had ratified the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, bringing the total number of ratifications to 37.

Organizational matters

10. **The Chair**, reviewing the items on the agenda, said that eight reports from eight States parties would be considered by the Committee during the session. Out of that total, three States parties, namely the Marshall Islands, Palau and Solomon Islands, would have their reports reviewed via video conference.

11. She welcomed the many partners who supported the Committee's work and noted that the biennial meeting with UNICEF would be held on 31 January 2018. Discussions would continue on the Committee's methods of work, especially in connection with the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure and the follow-up to the treaty body strengthening process. Any communications or information received relating to the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure would also be considered. In addition, the Committee would begin preparation for its September 2018 Day of General Discussion, start work on the revision of general comment No. 10, and discuss any other matters related to its work. The following session would be held from 17 May to 5 June 2018.

Adoption of the agenda (CRC/C/77/1)

12. *The agenda was adopted.*

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.30 a.m.